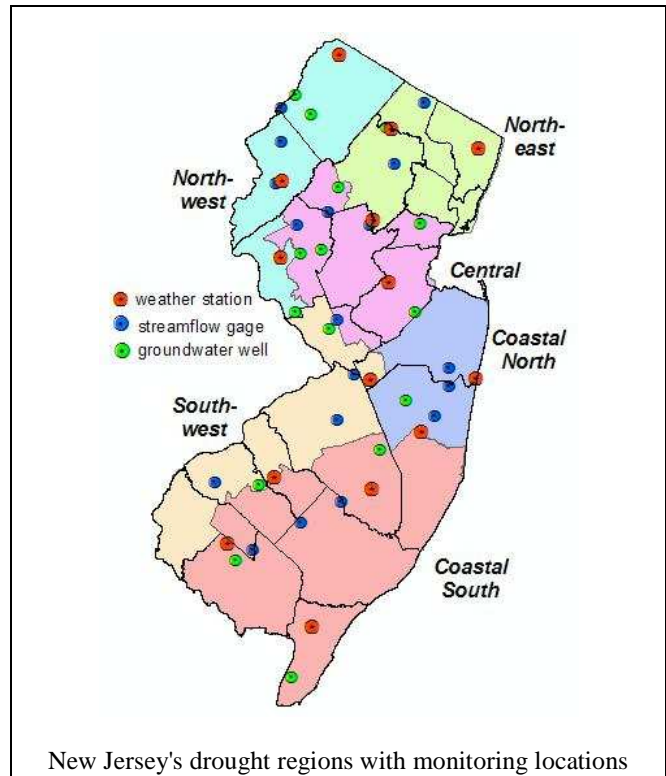


New Jersey Water-Supply Drought Indicators

Purpose

- Evaluate threats to water supply in the six drought regions.
- Summarize precipitation, streamflow, reservoir levels, and groundwater conditions.
- Enhance region-specific and resource-specific analysis.
- Consolidate large data sets.
- Allow region-specific response.
- Set comparable risks and levels of drought between regions.
- Provide a better definition of drought start and stop.
- Enhance public communication.
- Not intended to be triggers but rather indicators used in conjunction with other tools.



Indicator Evaluation Criteria and Data Sources

<i>Water Resource</i>	<i>Data Source</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>
Precipitation	NJ State Climatologist's Mesonet data & county-based precipitation deficits from National Weather Service.	Compare 3-month deficit to normal.
Streamflows	Three gages per drought region, 18 total. Data on internet.	Compare 3-month deficit to normal.
New Jersey reservoir levels	Reservoir operators report levels to NJDEP.	Compare current levels to normal.
NYC's Delaware River reservoirs	Reservoir levels reported to Delaware River Basin Commission and are on internet.	Compare current levels to normal.
Unconfined ground-water levels	19 wells across state. Data on internet.	Compare current levels to normal.

The indicators are:

- Updated weekly during dry periods and bi-weekly in normal and wet periods.
- Available on the internet at www.njdrought.org.
- Intended to be used to evaluate water-supply droughts, not other types of drought.
- More thoroughly described in 'New Jersey Water-Supply Drought Indicators' which is available at <http://www.njgeology.org/enviroed/infocirc/droughtind.pdf>.

For more information contact

Jeffrey L. Hoffman
N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
New Jersey Geological Survey
PO Box 427
Trenton, NJ 08625
Jeffrey.L.Hoffman@dep.state.nj.us

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